

**MEMORABLE PASSAGES
FROM THE BIBLE
(AUTHORIZED VERSION)**

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Memorable Passages from the Bible (Authorized Version) by Fred Newton Scott

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Bible English. Selections. 1905. authorized

MEMORABLE PASSAGES FROM
THE BIBLE

(AUTHORIZED VERSION)

SELECTED AND EDITED

BY

FRED NEWTON SCOTT

PROFESSOR OF RHETORIC IN THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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Prof F. N. Scott
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PREFACE

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THIS book is neither a Bible reader, a sacred anthology, nor yet a dictionary of popular quotations, though it bears some resemblance to all three. Its place is rather with those useful collections of excerpts which in the schools are known by the cacophonous title, "Memory Gems." It is an assemblage, that is to say, of passages suitable for memorizing. In it will be found those parts of the Authorized Version which I could wish I had myself committed to memory when I was young. If it differs from similar collections, the main differences will be found to lie in the principle of selection and the method of arrangement.

Q With respect to the first, it should be noted that the selection is made on literary, not on ethical or religious grounds. Here will be found what may be called the Bible idioms, — those sentences and bits of connected discourse which have become an essential part of our literary tradition.

As concerns the second point, the selections are arranged in the order of the original text. The reason for so placing them, instead of grouping them under appropriate heads or distributing them according to their difficulty, is simply that they seemed more interesting in this order than in any other. Thus arranged they show at a glance what parts and what proportions of the whole have been most congenial to the literary consciousness of the race, — assuming, of course, that the collection is fairly representative.

Time was when such a volume as this would have been superfluous. A few generations ago it would have competed in the

school and the home with the Bible itself. When the Bible was read regularly twice a day in the home and at least once a day in the schools, there was small need of making volumes of extracts from it. The Biblical phrases then formed indispensable parts of the living stream of expression, both written and oral. But that day has gone by, and seems not likely to return. It is the simple truth, obvious to any one who uses his eyes and ears, that our young people, in the mass, do not come into close and frequent contact with the Bible commonplaces; or if they do, that they are little impressed by them. One is continually struck by this fact in one's teaching. Biblical allusions and quotations, in literature or in conversation, fall for the most part on unresponsive ears. In a generation or two it seems not unlikely that many of the great Biblical passages, now the treasured idioms of the language, will undergo a rapid obsolescence. Whether the evil tendency can be counteracted by the use of a book like this is doubtful, but such a book may at least cooperate helpfully with other agencies. Young persons who turn over its pages may haply, by some pithy sentence or striking image or felicitous phrase, be startled into sudden interest, and so be led to read on, to ponder, and to commit to memory.

The notes are few and simple. They are intended to answer briefly such questions as naturally arise upon a first contact with the text. Among them are interspersed, by way of suggestion, a few literary parallels. Some exercises for committing quotations to memory have been added for the use of teachers.

F. N. SCOTT.

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN,

May 22, 1905.

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